

*Xie xie.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 p.m. at the South Gate of the Old City. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Feng Xuchu of Xi'an; Governor Cheng Andong of Shaanxi Province.

### **Memorandum on Refugee Admissions Consultations**

*June 25, 1998*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* FY 1999 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 78,000 refugee admissions during FY 1999, which would be allocated by specific region as follows: 12,000 for Africa; 9,000 for East Asia (including Amerasians); 3,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean; 4,000 for the Near East and South Asia; 48,000 for Europe; and 2,000 for the Unallocated Reserve. The recommended level of funded admissions is equal to the level assumed in the FY 1999 budget request.

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admission numbers to be made available for the adjustment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States.

3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 26.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the National Science Board**

*June 26, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I am pleased to submit to the Congress a report of the National Science Board entitled *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998*. This report represents the thirteenth in a series examining key aspects of the status of American science and engineering in a global environment.

Investments in science and engineering research and education have enjoyed bipartisan support. They are critical to America's ability to maintain world leadership and fulfill our potential as a Nation as we begin the transition into the 21st century.

This report provides a broad base of quantitative information about U.S. science, engineering, and technology in an international context. I commend *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998* to the attention of the Congress and those in the scientific and technology communities. It will assist us in better understanding the new developments and trends in what is rapidly becoming a global knowledge-based economy.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
June 25, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 26.

### **Exchange With Reporters in the Village of Xiahe, China**

*June 26, 1998*

*Q.* Good morning, sir.

#### **Human Rights**

*Q.* Mr. President, the Chinese arrested a couple of dissidents, one apparently for intending to do an interview with an American journalist. I wonder, does such action make it more difficult for you to make the case

to the American people that your policy of engagement is improving the lot of the Chinese people, is improving the human rights situation?

**The President.** No. I found the reports disturbing, and I've asked Ambassador Sasser to raise it with the Chinese authorities. And if true, they represent not China at its best and not China looking forward but looking backward.

One of the reasons that I came here was to discuss both privately and publicly issues of personal freedom. So I think it's very important for me to do that. But I think it makes the case—it makes it all the more important that we continue to work with the Chinese and to engage them.

### **Taiwan**

**Q.** There have been some suggestions that you're going to sort of accept the Chinese insistence, that during the press conference you're going to sort of declare the United States decision not supporting Taiwan independence, not supporting Taiwan's bid for the United Nations, and not supporting one China/one Taiwan, but two Chinas. Is it going to happen?

**The President.** Well, first of all, you should come to the press conference to see what happens. But our position with regard to Taiwan is embodied in the three communiqués and in the Taiwan Relations Act and in the facts of our relationship over the years. So I think it's obvious that there will be no change in our position one way or the other on this trip.

### **Susan McDougal**

**Q.** Mr. President, on a domestic matter, Mr. President, are you happy with the Susan McDougal—Mr. President, are you happy for Susan McDougal? Do you feel—

**The President.** Well, I'm concerned about her health, and I hope that she gets better now. I think it's a—I hope that it puts her in a position where she can get over her pain and her difficulty.

### **Supreme Court Decision on the Line Item Veto**

**Q.** Sir, the line item veto, sir, was struck down. What do you think about that?

**The President.** I'm disappointed. I think that having it has made it much easier to control spending, and I think that—and control special interest tax breaks. And so I hope very much that Congress will not use this decision to move away from the path of fiscal discipline that we have followed the last 5 years that has gotten us to our present state of economic prosperity. I think it would be a mistake.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:35 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to Susan McDougal, Whitewater investigation figure. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion With Xiahe Area Residents**

*June 26, 1998*

**The President.** Let me begin by thanking all of you for spending a little time with my wife and me today, and by thanking everyone in Xiahe for making us feel so welcomed.

I'm sorry that I had to take a little time to answer some questions from our news media, but as you know, there's 12 hours time difference, and so, they're running out of time to file their stories, and thank you for your patience.

In America, there is a lot of respect for and interest in Chinese history and culture but also in the remarkable transformation which has occurred here over the last 25 years. For example, many Americans are very interested in the fact that over half a million Chinese villages now have local elections, including this one.

They are interested in knowing more about the changes which have led to rising incomes and giving more people the ability to own their own homes and to make decisions about jobs. And they're interested in how small entrepreneurs start their own businesses and how villages like this have their own investments.

So we really have no set program today. I would like to just hear from each of you about what you are doing and how you personally have seen things change in China in the last few years.